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LB 1021

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Substitute AM3201 without objection? So ordered. Senator Schimek, are you going to open on the amendment? Senator Schimek. (AM3201, Legislative Journal page 1470.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. This has been an on again, off again thing, so I'm doing it this morning. Again, if you would follow along with me on the handout, again, on the column that describes AM3201. You will notice that under this amendment there would still be a \$50 reporting threshold for gifts and then there is a phrase added that gifts must be described and categorized by approximate value based on a good faith estimate by the individual required to report. That's on the statement of financial interests. Then again we move to the lobbyist and principal calendar quarterly reports and lobbyist fees for services remains the same. It's divided into two separate groups. And, in addition, on office expenses we still say they need not be reported but if a lobbyist wants to they can, and that would be a separate category. Right now, it is not a separate category and some people felt that some lobbyists would want to report those office expenses. The third thing then, the aggregate amount spent on the two categories would be members of the Legislature and officials in the executive branch, and they would be reportable as expenses for entertainment, including food and drink. However, the cost of events at which the attendance of a member is not the primary reason for the event is not reportable. At the top of the next page, we said...we decided that the aggregate amount spent on the two categories of members of the Legislature and officials in the executive branch are reportable as expenses for admissions to state-owned facility or state-regulated industry or event. The aggregate amount spent on the two categories of members of the Legislature and officials in the executive branch are reportable as expenses for gifts other than admissions to a state-owned facility or state-regulated industry or event. And then, finally, "gift" is defined broadly again but with some specific exceptions. Some items like food and drink for immediate consumption are not considered gifts. However, again, admissions to state-regulated industries are considered gifts which are permissible regardless of value. And then on the last page you'll see that the last change that's made in this amendment is that: Any agency, political subdivision or